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ABSTRACT

This analysis considers the urban and educational crises in modern Britain, outlining and explaining the problems and suggesting interrelated solutions. Included is an indepth analysis of the social, economic, and educational revitalization of one inner-city community in Birmingham (England). The first six chapters of this book discuss "The Problem of Urban Decline: Charitable Urban Solutions." The first chapter provides an introduction to the problems of urban society and education in Britain. Chapter 2 details the depth and range of the social ills that face Britain's urban areas. Chapter 3 considers government responses to these problems and then turns to the bottom-up solutions people in communities have made themselves. In chapter 4, the focus is on one inner-city area of Birmingham and the development within it of Saint Paul's charity as a means to reconstruct social and educational institutions. Chapter 5 discusses ways in which inhabitants of this community are typical of other urban areas. Chapter 6 considers educational reforms the government has attempted to institute. Chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10, grouped as "The New Self-governing Neighbourhood School," look at the potential of a new type of independent community-governed school that is being developed in British cities. Chapters 11-15 comprise the last section of the book, titled "Refocusing Local Government and Political Theory." Chapter 11 discusses the future of these reform efforts at school restructuring in a climate that is free of the attitudes of the Conservative right. Chapter 12 examines the idea of the urban village with its accompanying neighborhood school. Chapter 13 discusses the collectivist theories that compete with the theories that facilitate independent grass-roots development. Chapter 14 outlines the new academy that will be needed to make social thought congruent with the contemporary realities of education; and chapter 15 summarizes the educational changes proposed in this analysis. (Contains 12 figures and 12 tables.) (SLD)